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FEB 11 1922

THE MAN WITH TWO MOTHERS ✓

Photoplay in five reels

✓ Story by Alice Duer Miller ✓

Scenario by Julien Josephson ✓

Directed by Paul Bern ✓

Author of the photoplay (under Sec. 62)
Goldwyn Pictures Corporation of the U. S. ✓

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The widow Bryan lives in Ballycoole, Ireland, with her only son Dennis. Dennis works at his trade, that of blacksmith, and his little shop is close by the cottage where he and his mother live. The mail carrier brings Dennis a letter from America. As he and his mother read same, one or two of the neighbors try to get an eyefull over his shoulder. The letter is from his Aunt Delia who lives in New York. Her husband has died after making considerable money in the junk business and his last wish was that Dennis be taken into the family, with the idea of making him ultimate heir. A check for five hundred dollars is enclosed. Mrs. Bryan tells Dennis that nothing is said about her accompanying him to America but the son tenderly reassures her—he would not think of going without her. Mother and son build air castles about their future and Dennis tells her he will be rich and buy her a di'mond ring, a silk dress, and a bonnet with green plumes.

Delia Bryan lives in a fashionable New York residence and her pretty niece, Claire Mordaunt, resides with her. Delia has a holy horror of her deceased husband's junk business. She is something of a social climber. Ellis Richey receives a handsome salary in mismanaging the junk business and he is guiding Delia up the social ladder. Dennis and his mother arrive in New York and they think to give Aunt Delia a pleasant surprise. Mother and son are garbed in typical peasant costumes and the mother has brought along her favorite bird in a small cage. The stately butler tries to bar their admittance taking them to be servants but Dennis clears a way with his blackthorn stick and they push their way into the parlor. Delia, Claire and Richey are present and they look surprised at the intrusion. The butler announces them and Dennis shocks his aunt by kissing her heartily. Dennis introduces his mother as "The finest and prettiest woman in Ireland." Delia greets Kate very coldly repulsing the latter's attempt to kiss her. Richey gazes at the new arrivals superciliously but Claire greets Dennis warmly and embraces his mother. Dennis shocks the butler when he seats his mother and removes her shoes so that she may rest her feet. Delia makes it plain to Dennis that while she is willing to welcome him into her home that his mother will have to return to Ireland. Dennis objects but his mother senses the situation and announces she is going back to Ireland. She is resolved that nothing will hinder Dennis' chances for betterment. Claire tells Dennis not to let his mother go back and her fervently promises to keep her with him.

Kate proves obstinate and the hour of sailing is at hand. Dennis is now modishly clothed and he accompanies his mother to the ship. Claire was at the steamer to see Katie Bryan leave—but Richey was there to see that she left. Mother and son are saying good bye but at the last moment Dennis refuses to let her go. He picks her up in his arms and carries her to the wharf and secretes her behind a pile of freight. The mother weakly protests but Dennis is masterful and quiets her fears. Neither Claire or Richey have observed the maneuver and they still believe Kate to be aboard the ship. The ship sails and Dennis joins them and all three wave good bye to the mythical Kate.

Dennis rejoins his mother and he glimpses the Donahue apartments which is located just around the corner from the Bryan home. Telling his mother the place must be all right—because it's Irish—he persuades her to enter and he rents an apartment for her. From a ~~xxx~~ window in the room Kate can look right into Aunt Delia's dining room across the way. Dennis calls his mother's attention to this. Hearing a knock at the door Dennis hides his mother behind the screen and then goes to open the door. The arrival proves to be the genial landlord, Donahue. He is ~~xxx~~ unmistakably Irish and he and Dennis greet each other warmly. Kate comes out and she and Donahue recognize each other. Donahue listens as Dennis confides the situation to him and he promises to keep their secret. He tips Dennis off that his uncle's junk business needs watching and Dennis determines to investigate.

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Dennis and his mother then agree upon a code of signals which she is to use if she needs him. She is to wave her shawl from the window and two shakes will mean 'Come over quick, and three shakes will tell him to 'Come a -runnin'.'

A few days later and Dennis breezed into the junk yard. Richey greets him coldly and Dennis sizes up things about the office. Dennis tries to open a door leading to the yard but finds it barred. Hansen, the superintendent believed the manager's place was in the office so he kept the door barred from the outside. Hansen enters and Dennis eyes him keenly. Hansen is a rugged ruffian and it is evident that he has Richey bulldozed. He looks inquiringly at Dennis and Richey whispers an explanation of the latter's presence. Hansen scowls as he hands Richey the pay-roll to sign. Richey protests that he will have to verify the names but Hansen remarks that he is boss of the place and for Richey to get the pay-checks ready. The latter meekly acquiesces and Hansen goes out. David glimpses the pay-roll and is surprised to see the name of Hansen several times--many times. He wonders if it is a pay-roll or the Hansen family tree. Dennis prepares to ~~leave~~ depart and he banters Richey, telling him not to be rough with Mr. Hansen.

The following morning ~~Mr~~ Dennis prepares to leave the house early. He is attired in overalls and jumper and has a lunch pail under his arm. The alarm clock from his room awakened Claire and curiosity sends her downstairs. Dennis tells her he is going to do a little private investigating at the junk yard. She reminds him his aunt Delia would be angry if she knew what he was about to do and she admonishes him to keep out of trouble. Today is his birthday and he must be sure to get home early as they are going to give him a little party. Claire shows Dennis a wrist watch she has purchased for him as a gift. He is touched and they move near the window where Dennis makes love ardently. Claire is responsive and they embrace. Suddenly Dennis sees the shawl signalling from the window across the way--"Come over quick." Claire notices his perturbation and she too glimpses the shawl. She visions it in the hands of a fair charmer who must be carrying on an affair with Dennis. Dennis exits hurriedly and in a fit of temper Claire hurls the watch to the floor. Quickly repentant she picks it up and eyes its battered condition ruefully.

Dennis' mother refills his lunch pail and then tells him to hasten home as she is preparing him a grand birthday dinner. Thinking of the other celebration at the other house Dennis promises to do his best to get there at six o'clock but his mother must not get impatient if he is late. Dennis bids her an affectionate farewell and starts for the junk yard. It is no easy matter to gain admittance but Dennis solves the difficulty by telling the gateman his name is Hansen. Believing him another one of the bosses relatives the man admits him. Dennis snoops about and chats with a workman or two. He finds out that Hansen has been padding the pay-roll. There are only two Hansen's working about the place. Dennis unbars the office door and examines some papers and memoranda on Richey's desk. Hansen gets out of his limousine and glimpsing the open door he eyes Dennis angrily. Dennis is preparing to pocket the padded pay-roll and Hansen angrily demands the return of the papers--threatening to knock Dennis' block off. The men fight and after a terrific struggle Dennis knocks his burly antagonist senseless. Meanwhile, Richey has let himself in the other door and he has retreated to a safe corner and viewed the fight somewhat terrified. A crowd of workmen are looking in at the door. Dennis motions to the workmen to pick Hansen up. They raise the battered man to his feet and Dennis remarks "you're fired--get out o' here--and take the rest of the Hansen tribe with you. Richey resents this display of authority but Dennis cowers him as he tells him that hereafter He is the superintendent while Richey is only the manager. Going out in the yard Dennis bars the door--following Hansen's precedent.

Claire and Delia wonder what is keeping Dennis. The table is tastefully arranged and loaded with delicacies. Richey enters and tells Delia that

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he saved Dennis from a severe thrashing at the hands of Hansen when the former beat into the junk yard that day. Delia thanks him for protecting her nephew but Claire eyes Richey skeptically. To avoid awkward explanations Dennis had slipped into the house unobserved. He is in his room and has carefully washed away all traces of the recent combat. He is donning his evening clothes. Downstairs Richey is telling Delia that he must keep Dennis away from the plant else he will get them into serious trouble. Delia assents but defers her reprimand until the morrow as today is his birthday. Dennis gets dressed and knowing his mother will be waiting he pencils a note of explanation addressing her as ~~Butler~~ Darling and telling her not to get impatient he will be over as soon as possible. Dennis gives the note to the butler with instructions to slip it under the door of his mother's apartment. Richey encounters the butler in the hall and the latter tells him of the letter. Richey gets possession of same and as he reads it his face lights with triumph. He imagines he has the goods on Dennis and that when he exposes the latter to Claire and to Delia that the case of Dennis will then be entirely hopeless.

Richey hides the note in his pocket as Dennis joins him. They all are soon seated at the table and commence to partake of the refreshments, dinner etc. In her apartment Kate has also made preparations to welcome her son. The little table is tastefully decorated and well loaded with eatables. Kate has baked a birthday cake and has Dennis's name worked on the top in frosting. It is six o'clock and she wonders what can be keeping her son. Getting impatient she waves the shawl into the signal 'Come-a-running.' Dennis sees the signal and imagining that something urgent must have happened he makes his hasty excuses and departs. Richey has also seen the shawl and he takes Claire and Delia to the window so that they may see Dennis' duplicity with their own eyes. He then produces the stolen note and as they read its apparently incriminating contents the face of Delia hardens. Procuring wraps she and Richey leave to investigate. Claire hesitates but finally follows them. Inside mother and son have exchanged affectionate greetings and she hands him a pair of home made slippers. Seating themselves at the table Dennis and his mother clink glasses as they drink a birthday toast. In the hall outside, Delia, Richey and Claire are listening at the door. "Drinking" remarks Delia as she hears the clink of the glasses. ~~But~~ Dennis and his mother kiss. "Kissing" comments the indignant Delia. She and Richey pound on the door. Dennis and his mother are startled and he conceals her behind a screen before he opens the door. He is plainly surprised at the unexpected visit but he puts a bold face on and welcomes the party in. Unable to see anyone they glance around the room. Dennis makes plausible explanations-that he ~~is~~ always drinks with two glasses etc. Claire sarcastically asks him if he always sits on two chairs-pointing to the the chairs which are overlapped. Richey discovers Kate's feet behind the screen but Dennis pushes them back remarking they are a pair of his mother's old shoes. At the critical moment Kate sneezes and Richey starts toward the screen but Dennis hurls him to the floor. Removing the screen Dennis smiles encouragingly at his mother who appears frightened. The surprise of Delia and Claire is obvious while the chagrined Richey slinks out of the room. Explanations follow and Delia praises Dennis for refusing to permit his mother to go home. She has undergone a change of heart and it is evident that Kate will be welcome at her home. Donahue enters and presents Dennis with a check for \$25.00 for a birthday present. The two mothers and Donahue commence to chat. Dennis draws Claire into the other room. Delia is finally induced to smoke out of the pipe which Kate hands her. All three look toward Claire and Dennis. The two are in a lover's embrace and the two women and Donahue smile benignly at them.

E. J. Meagher
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